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Wednesday, January 6, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

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Some say prosecution of Bill Cosby on decades-old sexual assault charges is racially motivated. 6

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IPHONE PRODUCTION CUT

1 Apple is expected to cut production of its latest iPhone models about 30 percent in the January-March quarter, the Nikkei reported. As inventories of the iPhone 6s and 6s Plus have piled up since they were launched last September, production will be scaled back to let dealers go through their stock, the business daily reported. REUTERS

ISIS TERRITORY SHRINKS

2 Islamic State's territory shrank 40 percent from its maximum expansion in Iraq, and 20 percent in Syria in 2015, as international forces pushed it out of several cities, the U.S.-led coalition fighting it said Tuesday. There was no immediate comment from the hardline Islamist group on the estimates from the coalition, made up of countries including Britain, France and Jordan that have been bombing its positions.

REUTERS

CHARACTER INCREASE

3 Twitter is building a feature that will allow users post messages as long as 10,000 characters, Re/code reported. Twitter, which currently has a 140-character limit, is considering launching the service toward the end of the first quarter but has not set an official date, Re/code reported. REUTERS

FIRE THEN ICE

7 A fire tore through the clubhouse of the historic Cobbs Creek Golf Club overnight Monday in West Philadelphia. The fire broke out around 11 p.m. and was brought under control early Tuesday morning, leaving the clubhouse in ruins and covered in ice in the freezing air.

MAIN PHOTO BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

CAR THEFT, CHILD INSIDE

4 A suspect stole a car with a child sleeping in the backseat at a 7-Eleven in Northeast Philadelphia, ABC reported, adding that the child was eventually discovered unharmed in the abandoned vehicle. The incident began when a man went into the 7-Eleven, leaving his stepson, 6, asleep in the backseat of the running car.

JASON NUCKOLLS

MAN FOUND HANGING

5 Chester County school district officials attempted to shield students from a grim site Monday morning: the body of man hanging from a nearby swing set at Marshall Square Park. District buses were rerouted so that students would bypass the scene as investigators worked to uncover the details, NBC reported."He was found hanging from the swing set," West Chester Police Chief Scott Bohn said to Daily Local News, which added that authorities believe the man's death was a suicide. JASON NUCKOLLS

PENN STATE CLEARED

6 A grand jury has cleared Penn State of any criminal wrongdoing in the 2014 suicide of a student, Attorney General Kathleen Kane announced. Marquise Braham was a student at Penn State's Altoona campus when he leapt to his death from the roof of a New York area parking garage. MATT LEE

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Ramsey bids farewell as Philly police commissioner

With the swearing-in of a new police commissioner, Tuesday marked the last day for Charles Ramsey, who now calls himself "a retired gentleman on a fixed income."

During a press conference last week offering an overview of crime reduction during his eight-year tenure, Ramsey took some time to reflect on what hopes to leave behind as his legacy in Philadelphia.

"I would hope that I've been here long enough to be able to help develop the leadership of the future, not just in Philadelphia, but nationally," Ramsey said.

"I think leadership development — I would like to be remembered for that anyway."

As for regrets, he said, "not really."

Ramsey added: "Do-overs don't exist in real life, so I don't waste my time even thinking about it or worrying about it. I don't waste time with regrets, you get stuck in neutral if you do that."

Ramsey praised the new chief, Richard Ross, and said he has the utmost faith in him at the helm.

"He's very much on top of everything we've been doing. He's going to be his own man. He's going to be his own police commissioner, and he's going to be a good one, in my opinion. We've had some conversations, but many of those conversations were private and will remain so, because that's just the nature of the business," he said.

"You've just got to be able to talk through some things and not read about them the next day in the newspaper." JENNY DEHUFF

Richard Ross CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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Ross sworn in as top cop

Opting for meaningfulness rather than glory, Richard Ross took the oath of office as the city's 30th police commissioner.

JENNY DEHUFF
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

As a youth, he once jumped out of bed in the middle of the night to help his father defend his home against an intruder. Now, Richard Ross will be the chief defender of the citizens of Philadelphia.

Ross was sworn in as the city's 30th police commissioner Tuesday morning by none other than Mayor Jim Kenney, who took his own oath of office one day before. Ross replaces Charles Ramsey, who served for eight years under former Mayor Michael Nutter.

Ross, the oldest of three boys, grew up on 13th Street, about three blocks east of Central High School, his alma mater, where he was inaugurated Tuesday. He was asked by friends and colleagues why he chose Central for the ceremony, when he could have been encompassed by the pomp and grandeur of City Hall.

"About two months ago, the mayor-elect and I had a conversation and he said, 'Look, if there is a place that is important to you, I am OK — it doesn't have to be City Hall,'" Ross told a packed auditorium.

"Almost instantly, I said, 'Central.'"

Ross, 51, then got down to business — talk of the future and what's next in terms of tasks at hand.

"Look, it is a challenging time for law enforcement. I don't think anyone can deny that, unless you really have your head in the sand," he said.

"Being the fourth-largest [police] department, we have some issues as well. … These are complex issues with no easy fixes. We have to confront them. We have to be bold about them. And we have to understand that in order to be successful, these things need to happen.

"We need to be more responsive and more accountable to our neighborhoods, and we can't be afraid of that. We can't be afraid to show people who we are and why we do things. It's so, so important. I do believe that from these challenges, like in [anything] in life, there is opportunity. We're going to seize these opportunities and we're going to make this department better than it already is."

Before Ross placed his hand on the Bible, Kenney offered kind words.

"When I was nominated in May, I thought about this guy over here," he said, indicating Ross.

"I made sure to ask him not to go anywhere, because I knew he was such a talented individual. We didn't have to go outside of our department to find leadership. He instills in me — and instills in us — a steady, intelligent, quiet confidence, a decency and a dignity that I think is really required in a police department in the year 2016."

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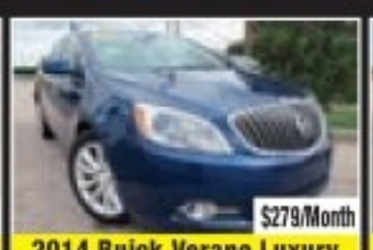
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Cosby defenders say race is factor

Some say comedian is victim of a racially motivated media, prosecution.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Cosby goes into court. GETTY IMAGES

As Bill Cosby faces criminal charges for a decade-old incident in a Philly suburb, some are defending Cosby and arguing that as a black man, he is being railroaded.

Cosby made international headlines after local prosecutors arraigned him last week on charges of aggravated indecent assault for a 2004 incident with a former Temple University employee, which could as many as 10 years in prison.

But if you search the #BillCosby hashtag on social media, many users have defended Cosby, comparing his treatment in the courts and media to those of white celebrities accused of sexual abuse. Many have said Cosby is being treated unfairly because he is black.

"Both the prosecution and the media coverage are racially tinged," said Walter Hudson, a South Jersey-based activist and chairman of the National Awareness Alliance. "He's being treated differently. He's not being treated the same."

Hudson mentioned as examples Charlie Sheen, who acknowledged having sex with women while HIV-positive; actor Stephen Collins from the TV show "Seventh Heaven," who acknowledged sexual acts with underage girls; Roman Polanski, who fled the country to avoid charges for having sex with a child; and Woody Allen, who has been accused of child molestation.

"It's just an assassination of his character. Other people have done such things. Their lives have gone on, and they're getting new movie deals — but they're tearing his [Cosby's] life down," Hudson said. "I don't think he's getting a fair shake. It's just a shakedown. They're trying to take shots at a known billionaire."

Gina Scaramella, executive director of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, agreed people of color are often described and treated more harshly by media and the justice system.

"The words attributed to white offenders [for any type of crime] tend to be more forgiving and attuned to the complexity of that person's life," Scaramella wrote via email. "When the offender is a person of color, dehumanizing words tend to be used such as 'monster' or 'animal' and are used and there is little acknowledgement of their individual lives."

> *"Both the prosecution and the media coverage are racially tinged."*
> Hudson

Hudson's complaints echo those made by comic Eddie Griffin in a recent interview with VladTV.com. Griffin called the charges part of a "systematic effort to destroy every black male entertainer's image."

Cosby's attorney Monique Pressley has called the prosecution of Cosby "political" because newly elected Montgomery County D.A. Kevin Steele brought up the Cosby case during his campaign.

However, Scaramella said Cosby's fame is what likely protected him from accusations of sexual misconduct being leveled earlier.

"Why did it take so many women for people to believe that Cosby's behavior should be taken seriously, investigated, and [if warranted] prosecuted?" she asked. "He was given a big pass due to his power, wealth and influence which is why it can take so many people (especially if they are women or children) to be believed and for action toward justice to even begin."

Nonetheless, Hudson is skeptical of the victims' stories.

"I just find it hard to believe that these women did not know what was going on," he said. "Why wait 30, 40, 10, however many years to report it? Why not do it at that time?"

Cosby returns to court for a preliminary hearing on Jan. 14.

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Philly is No. 2 city for bedbugs

Bed bug GETTY IMAGES

"Don't let the bedbugs bite" could be the new slogan for The City of Brotherly Love, according to one leading pest company.

Terminix released its sixth annual ranking of bedbug-infested cities this week, finding that Philadelphia was the No. 2 city in the country for the pesky creatures.

The city actually showed improvement in 2015, and was knocked out of the top spot for the first time in four years by Detroit.

"We've seen a steady increase in bed bugs since the 1990s, which has been influenced by increased international travel and infestations left untreated," said Paul Curtis, manager, technical services at Terminix.

"Most of the cities in our top 15 are big tourist and business destinations, making travelers even more at risk for encounters with bedbugs — whether it's on the plane, at their hotel, in a movie theater or riding in a taxi. The name 'bedbug' is deceptive, as these pests can thrive just about anywhere."

Cleveland-Akron, Los Angeles and Dayton also topped the list.

New York City, which recently made headlines after a California couple discovered a bedbug infestation in their Upper West Side hotel room, was ranked at 15, after previously rating as the No. 3 city. CRISTABELLE TUMOLA

Former Montco DA goes silent on social media after Cosby flap

Bruce Castor said he's been bombarded with media requests about his decision not to charge Bill Cosby.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Castor FILE PHOTO

Former Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor was unhappy with all the media attention he got after sexual assault charges were filed against Bill Cosby last week.

Castor shut down his Facebook and Twitter accounts not long after posting a Facebook screed demanding media leave him alone.

"Today is the first time a reporter came to my HOUSE!" Castor posted on his public Facebook page, before going on to indicate that his wife, who was alone, was ready to potentially use lethal force to protect herself from the unknown visitor.

> *"I have said everything that needs saying about this case. I have nothing to add."*
> Caster via Facebook

"A stranger coming to our very remote home, with all the criminals I helped send to prison, quite literally takes his life into his hands. This reporter will never know the danger he was in," he wrote. "So reporters: stop calling my elderly parents, and never even consider coming to our house uninvited especially on a work day when my wife is alone, except for Mr. Ruger."

Reporters were likely seeking comment from Castor regarding the Cosby case. When he was DA in 2005, Castor decided not to press charges against Bill Cosby for the alleged assault of Andrea Constand, citing a lack of evidence.

Current DA Kevin Steele went ahead and indicted Cosby on Dec. 30, just a day before the statute of limitations would run out on the case. The indictment was partly built on new evidence from a deposition Cosby gave in a civil lawsuit which was first made public in July 2015 by the Associated Press.

Castor's Facebook message ended with a link to a Metro article. "As the story below points out, I have said everything that needs saying about this case. I have nothing to add," he wrote.

Castor did not respond to requests for comment.

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Sanders takes aim at Wall Street, Clinton

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders warned on Tuesday that financial-sector greed was "destroying the fabric of our nation" and said the starting point of any Wall Street reform effort is breaking up "too big to fail" banks.

"If a bank is too big to fail, it is too big to exist; when it comes to Wall Street reform, that must be our bottom line," Sanders said in a blistering speech. He said allowing banks that are too big is essentially providing them with a "free insurance policy" to make risky investments knowing the U.S. government will prevent their collapse.

The senator from Vermont — an independent and a democratic socialist popular with the Democratic Party's populist wing — gave his speech at a theater near New York's Times Square, just "a few subway stops away from the epicenter of the global financial crisis," as his campaign put it.

Bernie Sanders GETTY IMAGES

"If a bank is too big to fail, it is too big to exist."
Sanders

Sanders also called for structural reforms to the Federal Reserve, making credit rating agencies nonprofit entities, and a tax on speculative investments. He urged increased penalties for financial fraud or malfeasance by institutions, calling fraud the business model of Wall Street.

His remarks were laced with direct and indirect criticisms of the policies and track record of primary campaign front-runner Hillary Clinton, whose constituency when she was a senator from New York included the financial industry.

Sanders favors breaking up too-big-to-fail banks and reinstating a version of the Glass-Steagall Act, a Depression-era law that prohibited commercial banks from engaging in investment banking activities.

REUTERS

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Last year many of the homes listed for sale never sold at all, and many sellers found that there was a tremendous amount a homeowner needed to be educated on to sell their home for top dollar in the shortest time period. Don't risk making the wrong choices and losing both time and money on your investment. Before you hire a realtor, know the right questions to ask to save you time and money. Industry experts have prepared a free special report called "How to Sell a House that Didn't Sell" which educates you on the issues involved.

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Erectile dysfunction (E.D.) affects more than 30 million men in the U.S. It is especially common in men with **diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, obesity, prostate cancer, prostate surgery, heart problems, and in past or current cigarette smokers.** However, it is now possible to **treat almost all men with E.D!** E.D. undermines a man's sexual confidence—but successful treatment can restore it! Many E.D. treatments are covered by most insurance and prescription plans.

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US auto sales set a record in 2015

Ssales hit a record of 17.47 million vehicles in 2015, breaking the mark of 17.41 million vehicles in 2000, according to Autodata Corp.

A General Motors Chevrolet dealership GETTY IMAGES

Automakers set a new U.S. sales record for 2015 even as December sales fell short of expectations, and forecasters said the new year will be even better.

Autodata said December sales on an annualized rate, accounting for seasonal factors, were 17.34 million vehicles, well below the 18.1 million vehicles expected by a Thomson Reuters poll.

"The U.S. economy continues to expand and the most important factors that drive demand for new vehicles are in place, so we expect to see a second consecutive year of record industry sales in 2016," said Mustafa Mohatarem, chief economist for General Motors.

Mohatarem said the important factors are employment and growth in personal income, which will remain strong.

GM, the top seller in the United States, said its monthly sales rose 5.7 percent from a year ago, and Ford Motor, the No. 2 U.S. automaker, reported a jump of 8 percent.

Sales of Ford's F-Series pickup trucks rose 15 percent in December. The F-Series, led by the F-150 pickup, extended two streaks: 39 years as the best-selling truck in the United States and 34 years as the best-selling vehicle of any kind.

U.S. consumers continued in December and in 2015 to shift from cars, including sedans and hatchbacks, to SUVs, crossovers and trucks. They were encouraged by low gasoline prices and better fuel economy for the larger vehicles, said Mark LeNeve, head of Ford's U.S. sales, noting that gasoline prices topped $4 per gallon in 2008. REUTERS

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Mother of 'affluenza' teen accepts Texas extradition

The mother of a Texas teenager who gained notoriety for his "affluenza" defense in a deadly drunken-driving case waived her right to fight extradition to Texas during a brief court hearing on Tuesday in California.

Wearing dark jail clothes and looking downcast, Tonya Couch, 48, was told she will be held in the custody of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and that the state of Texas has two weeks to collect her.

She spoke only in one-word replies to questions posed by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Sergio Tapia.

Couch's fugitive son, Ethan Couch, 18, is fighting extradition to the United States from Mexico.

The pair fled to Mexico after officials in Tarrant County, Texas, began an investigation into whether the teenager violated the probation deal that kept him out of prison after he killed four people with his pickup truck in 2013.

Tonya Couch GETTY IMAGES

Tonya Couch, who was wanted on a charge of hindering apprehension, was flown to Los Angeles from Mexico last week and has been held without bail at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles.

If convicted of the hindering charge, she could face two to 10 years in prison.

Her son was sentenced to 10 years of drink- and drug-free probation, which critics saw as leniency because of his family's wealth.

During his trial, a psychologist testified on his behalf that he suffered from "affluenza," meaning he was so spoiled that he could not tell right from wrong.

The diagnosis is not recognized by the American Psychiatric Association and was widely ridiculed.

Both mother and son were arrested last week in Mexico's Pacific Coast resort of Puerto Vallarta.

A Mexican court has granted the teenager, who faces likely incarceration in Texas, a stay against deportation that could delay his return by weeks or months, according to a Mexican migration official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

REUTERS

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Obama, wiping tears, makes new push to tighten gun rules

He said Americans need to be "just as passionate" as the NRA in changing gun laws, but acknowledged it won't happen during his final year in office.

President Obama talks about the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and about his efforts to increase federal gun control. GETTY IMAGES

President Barack Obama on Tuesday described new steps his administration will take to tighten gun rules and urged Americans to vote for candidates who do more to prevent gun violence, wiping away tears as he remembered children who died in a mass shooting.

As Obama delivered a powerful address in the White House, surrounded by family members of people killed in shootings, his voice rose to a yell as he said the constitutional rights of Americans to bear arms needed to be balanced by the right to worship, gather peacefully and live their lives.

Obama has often said his toughest time in office was grappling with the December 2012 massacre of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut.

"Every time I think about those kids, it gets me mad."

Obama said, tears rolling down his cheek.

"That changed me, that day," Obama said, after being introduced by Mark Barden, whose 7-year-old son was killed in the shooting. "My hope earnestly has been that it would change the country."

After that tragedy, the Democratic president failed to persuade Congress to toughen U.S. gun laws. He has blamed lawmakers for being in the thrall of the powerful National Rifle Association gun lobby group.

Obama laid out executive action he is taking to require more gun sellers to get licenses and more gun buyers to undergo background checks.

Under the changes, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives will issue guidelines intended to narrow exceptions to a system that requires sellers to check with the FBI to determine whether buyers have criminal records, are charged with crimes or have mental health conditions that would bar them from owning a gun.

Any changes to gun rules in America are fraught with political risk. The Constitution's 2nd Amendment gives Americans the right to have arms, a right that is fiercely defended.

Legal challenges to the changes are expected and Republican presidential candidates have promised to reverse his order if they win the White House. But Obama, entering his eighth and last year in office, has said his measures are within his authority and consistent with the Constitution.

REUTERS

BRIEF

One US service member killed, two wounded in Afghanistan

One member of the U.S. armed forces was killed and another two were wounded in the southern Afghan province of Helmand, where fierce fighting has been going on between Taliban insurgents and Afghan government forces, the U.S. military said Tuesday.

The service member died as a result of wounds sustained during operations near Marjah, Brig. Gen. Wilson Shoffner, spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan, said in a statement.

"We can confirm a U.S. helicopter has landed in Marjah, Helmand Province, and is experiencing mechanical problems. It was not shot down," added U.S. Army Col. Michael Lawhorn, spokesman for the Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan.

U.S. special operations troops came under heavy mortar and small-arms fire during a counterterrorism operation, NBC reported. A medical helicopter was hit by mortar fire while it was on the ground during the joint American-Afghan special operations mission, CNN reported.

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Miley Cyrus wants Liam Hemsworth back

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Everything old is new again, apparently. After two years apart filled with twerking, tongue-waggling and very little clothing, Miley Cyrus is reportedly looking to reconnect with ex-fiancé Liam Hemsworth. So much so, in fact, that she headed down to Australia to spend Christmas with the Hemsworths. "Miley came back to L.A. on Monday after spending the holidays with Liam. She had the time of her life being with him and his family," a source tells E! News. "She feels like they could pick up right where they left off. Miley has never gotten over Liam and always hoped they would get back together. She doesn't know where it will go, but she definitely still loves him and wants to be with him. Liam has an interest in being back together, too." And possibly more than just an interest, as another source says the two are already "back on." Well, that escalated quickly.

Tyga responds to 14-year-old texting scandal

Tyga is finally speaking out about that whole "swapping text message with a 14-year-old he met on Instagram" thing that's been plaguing him since before the holidays. Of course, a press conference by the girl in question with lawyer Gloria Allred by her side — because of course it's Gloria Allred — is bound to elicit some sort of response. "The truth is that Tyga contacted me first. He direct-messaged me on Instagram. I knew who he was, but I was surprised that he was contacting me," Molly O'Malia said Monday. "I began to feel uncomfortable when he asked me to FaceTime with him. Because of my discomfort with why he wanted to communicate with me, I quickly stopped responding to him."

But that's the tricky thing — why Tyga wanted to communicate with her. The rapper spoke out to TMZ via his reps insisting he was only ever interested in her as a singer. In addition, Tyga's manager says the girl said she was actually 17 in text messages — screenshots of which were provided to the website. So there.

DAILY VIDEO

YOUTUBE

Channing Tatum sings 'Let It Go' in drag

In the weirdest bit of fan fiction come to life in quite a while, sexual potato Channing Tatum dons some Disney princess drag for a performance of "Let It Go." The incident in question takes place on Spike TV's "Lip Sync Battle" in a dramatic set that has dancing snowflakes, a castle, snow and a beautiful white wig. Tatum, who has experience moving his mouth and dancing, naturally looks like a pro. The episode with the entire dance number (and the confused combination of your sexual and Disney fantasies) airs tomorrow. MATTHEW LEE

Should we be worried about Johnny Depp?

Guys? Johnny Depp isn't looking too good. The "Black Mass" star hit the Palm Springs International Film Festival red carpet looking puffy, palid and worse for the wear, with his problematic complexion only amplified by the presence of wife Amber Heard by his side, looking stunning as usual. "He was very friendly but almost unrecognizable. He looked to have put on a good 30 pounds at least," a source on the scene tells Radar Online. "His hair was a greasy mess, and his teeth were yellowed, too. It was pretty shocking. He looked more like Marlon Brando than Johnny Depp." I'm going to go ahead and assume that source means late-in-life Brando, because being compared to young Brando is a total compliment.

John Stamos keeps shading the Olsen twins

John Stamos has really been getting into this whole new frank honesty thing, and those who enjoy good doses of "Full House" backstage squabbling are the better for it. During his recent press blitz, he hasn't been shy about discussing how Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen sat out "Fuller House," the Netflix-produced update on the sitcom. "It was just like a family reunion where some of the family members didn't show up," he told Jimmy Fallon. But Stamos saved his best for Howard Stern. "They seemed very into it. They just were afraid of acting," he says. "They don't consider themselves actresses. I said, 'Maybe you guys will just be in New York and we'll do a phone call or something,' and they were like, 'Let us think about it,' and it just wasn't for them, so ..." Indeed.

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@michaelianblack
My new book is finally out, and I'm thrilled to report it seems poised to utterly disappear.

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It is a John Le Carré kind of morning in Los Angeles. I just slipped some microfilm to my Dunkin Donuts cashier.

@EvaLongoria
Just ran into Ryan Seacrest.... Does he love me or hate me? Find out on my Snapchat

Finding the last 'American Idol'

Keith Urban, Jennifer Lopez and Harry Connick Jr. return as judges for the final "American Idol," premiering tonight and tomorrow at 8 p.m. on Fox. ALL PHOTOS MICHAEL BECKER/FOX

The singing show that started it all looks for a "bookend" to Kelly Clarkson.

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
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"American Idol," the reality show that 14 years ago kicked off a tidal wave of singing competitions that have dominated network television — and introduced America to Simon Cowell — is having its last hurrah.

After failing to match up in the ratings to its younger competitors and facing flagging interest from viewers, Fox announced last year that it was shuttering its signature reality show, but not before one more search for a star. It's 15th and final season, cleverly spun into something of a victory lap rather than delayed cancellation, has a two-night, four-hour premiere airing tonight and tomorrow.

But what are we hoping to get out of one more season of "Idol"? And how is the show positioning itself in the crowded reality television landscape it helped create? What can the winner — or even the viewers — really expect at this point, when we live in a world where the victors of even the most popular singing competition on TV — "The Voice" — struggle for any actual success? Often, it's been better to almost

Another "American Idol" hopeful gets a ticket to Hollywood.

make it on "Idol." Just ask runners-up Clay Aiken, Adam Lambert or Jennifer Hudson (who didn't even reach the finals).

There's good reason host Ryan Seacrest cannily refers to the final season's champion as "the bookend to Kelly Clarkson," the very first "American Idol" winner. Clarkson has gone on to enjoy the kind of career the show's producers hoped every winner would, but she's the exception, not the rule. During the premiere, an adorably awkward hopeful and "Idol" super-fan, Michelle Marie, is tasked with naming all 14 previous winners in order, and even she has trouble. You won't be faulted if some of the names and faces don't ring a bell right away.

Going country

So how is "American Idol" setting itself apart? If the first few rounds of auditions are any indication, it's by setting its sights on the heartland, with an emphasis on country and twang that would make Blake Shelton blush. It's no accident that the new season kicks off with auditions in cities like Atlanta, Denver and Little Rock, Arkansas, and that so many hopefuls walk in carrying guitars. Whether or not the folksy focus will translate into improved ratings for the last hurrah, though, is still up in the air.

Ranking the Idols

Here's our take on where the show's winners stand on a scale from superstar to head-scratcher:

1. Kelly Clarkson
2. Carrie Underwood
3. Fantasia Barrino
4. Jordin Sparks
5. Ruben Studdard
6. Phillip Phillips
7. Taylor Hicks
8. Scotty McCreery
9. Nick Fradiani
10. Kris Allen
11. Lee DeWyze
12. David Cook
13. Candice Glover
14. Caleb Johnson

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Cancer Diagnosis/Deaths; Surgical/Brain Injuries/Deaths
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3 Books to jump-start your New Year's resolutions

Get inspired for a total life makeover with these inspiring new releases.

EMILY LAURENCE
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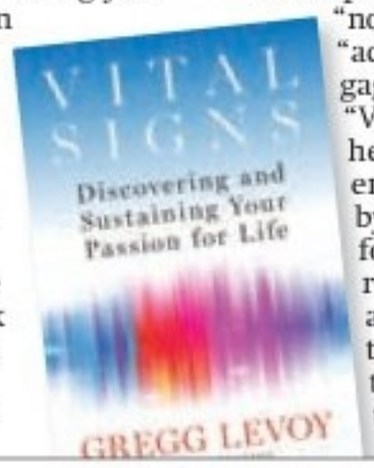
How about a little inspiration with your coffee? ISTOCK

Bye bye, 2015, and hello, new year and new chapter. But meeting your resolution goals isn't going to happen unless you have a plan. Make the first book you read in 2016 one that will transform your life.



"Vital Signs" by Gregg Levoy

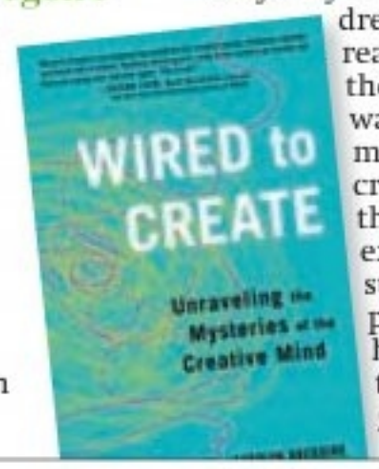
Let's be real: Going to work isn't something that makes the average person happy to shut off their alarm clock. A 2015 Gallup poll found that 70 percent of employees are either "not engaged" or "actively disengaged" at work. "Vital Signs" will help you rediscover your passion by giving tips on forming deeper relationships and new ways to live out the things you are truly interested in. If you feel depressed, stuck or bored, this book will help you get out of that rut and usher in a revival.

"Choosing Love" by Sherianna Boyle, MEd

If there is a relationship in your life causing you stress or fear — whether it's with a partner, parent, sibling or friend — let "Choosing Love" be your guidebook on how to love the right way. Psychologist Sherianna Boyle offers up her tips on connecting in healthy ways that will transform the relationships in your life in a way that will have you overflowing with happiness and joy. Alternatively, if you have been scared of getting too close to people, she teaches you how to eradicate that fear and go all in.

"Wired to Create" by Scott Barry Kaufman & Carolyn Gregoire

Scott Barry Kaufman and Carolyn Gregoire's Huffington Post article "18 Things Highly Creative People Do Differently" got over 5 million views in one week, and now the psychologist-writer duo have a book with even more tips. Make 2016 the year you turn your dream into a reality with their tips on ways to promote more creative thinking and examples of successful people who have put the tips to good use.



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The hot list

We're glossing right over those post-holiday blahs and moving onto all the fun, festive things to do in Philadelphia in January. We asked a few of our favorite Philly VIPs to give us the inside scoop on what they'll be up to — and what we should put on our calendars, too. RACHEL VIGODA

PROVIDED

1 Jillian Mele
Comcast SportsNet's "Breakfast on Broad" Host

• I am starting the year with a Philly staple in the winter, a trip to Winterfest at Penn's Landing. Every year around the holidays I do a winter activity with my little cousins. We like the ice skating mixed with the atmosphere. It extends the warm festive feel into the winter when Christmas and New Year's Eve are behind us.

• I'm also looking forward to Center City Restaurant Week at the end of January. When the winter blues start to set in I love getting out to different restaurants and trying new things. What's better than a nice meal with a glass of wine? Hopefully I'll have a chance to sip while looking out at the snow on the streets of Philly.

• The local sports scene is so exciting this month! Since I co-host a Philly sports talk show, I'm hoping the Eagles win the division and take us past Jan. 3. A few weeks ago, I would have never thought playoffs for this team, but let's hope we see some football in January!

PROVIDED

CHARLES MOSTOLLER

2 Kate Marlys
Owner, Philly PR Girl

• January always means Center City Restaurant Week, which just so happens to fall on my birthday week every year — not that I needed another reason to go out and try Center City's amazing restaurants! For all the Philly foodies, #CCDRW offers three-course dinners for only $35 per person, and some restaurants will even offer a three-course lunch for $20.

• I missed this event last year, but I'm definitely going to hit up the second annual Big Philly Beerfest, Jan. 15-16 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. If you're a home brewer or just a beer enthusiast, this is the place for you to sip and sample over 300 types of craft beers. While you spend the day drinking, your ticket cost will go toward raising funds for Animal Rescue Partners. This nonprofit group is committed to the support of pet adoption agencies, animal rescues, and pay/neuter programs.

• Still in the holiday spirit? At the Walnut Street Theatre, "A Christmas Story" is playing through Jan. 10. You know, the movie we all know and love and watch on repeat every Christmas? It's now a musical comedy!

3 Bex
CBS Radio, 96.5 AMP Radio Morning Show Host

• It's time to get fancy! The 22nd annual Hair O' The Dog bash (Jan. 16) is a must. There are nights that I enjoy hanging around in my sweatpants, but if I have the opportunity to get dressed up and dance the night away, I don't hesitate. Hair O' The Dog will bring together some of Philly's best DJs and also one of my favorite cover bands, GoGo Gadjet! Plus, an additional incentive is that a portion of the proceeds will benefit THON, Penn State Dance Marathon [a fundraising effort to fight pediatric cancer].

• "Once" is making its way to Philadelphia. The Broadway production is coming to the Kimmel Center Jan. 15-17. As a lover of music, my favorite part of the show is that the actors and musicians play all their own instruments onstage. The show is only in town for one weekend, but has five showtime options. As if you needed another reason to see "Once," it was the winner of eight 2012 Tony Awards.

• Hopefully by the time Jan. 29 rolls around there will be some fresh powder at Jack Frost Mountain. My sister-station WXTU is hosting its annual XTU Ski Day. It requires a little bit of road trip to Jack Frost but there are incentives. For starters, slope tickets are only $9.25. Also, country artist Locash will be performing, and my favorite part is it's a Friday event, so you can make a whole weekend out of it. Rent a cabin on Airbnb.com and enjoy the weekend on the mountain.

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'NOTTING HILL'

Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant get close in the Richard Curtis-written "Notting Hill." PROVIDED

We're emphatic about our hatred of Richard Curtis' "Love Actually." But we're only slightly ashamed of our love for other movies written by Richard Curtis. The Englishman became a cottage industry unto himself with rom-coms like "Four Weddings and a Funeral" as well as this one, with Hugh Grant at his stammeringest as a modest Londonite who suddenly finds himself getting it on with a Julia Roberts-like star (played by Julia Roberts). We can't really defend its combination of the cornball and the awkward, but we like it anyway, and as journalists, we especially dig the scene where Grant has to pretend to be one of us at a swanky and soul-deadening movie press junket, posing as a Horse and Hound journo and firing off inane queries like, "Are there any horses in it?"

'THE MEND'

Josh Lucas experiments with e-cigarettes in "The Mend." CINELICIOUS

One of last year's very best movies follows odd couple brothers — Josh Lucas' no-goodnik and Stephen Plunkett's uptight lawyer — as they spend some not-so-quality time together. But that hardly conveys the riches in John Magary's indie, one of the most thrilling debuts in ages. The opposite of a shaggy mumblecore, it's as tightly wound as its two heroes, who struggle to contain their anger as they descend into self-destruction together. Great soundtrack, too, filled with everything from all-girl Swedish post-punk and Christian psych rock to bass-heavy Brazilian jazz.

'THE SHINING'

Jack Nicholson goes nuts in "The Shining." WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Did you know Stanley Kubrick was once nominated for a Razzie? The people of 1980 hated his loose stab at Stephen King's shocker so much that one of movies' most respected auteurs was almost bestowed with award season's lowest accolade. But every Kubrick is eventually reclaimed, and nowadays "The Shining" is considered one of his finest works. In fact, "The Shining" is so loved now that it's spawned an underground of obsessees, as seen in the doc "Room 237."

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If prices in your first-choice Philly neighborhood are too high, try house hunting in one of the "spillover" areas. B. KRIST FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA

Real estate report: Where to buy in 2016

Priced out of your favorite 'hood? Head next door.

MONICA WEYMOUTH
@MetroPhilly
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Is becoming a Philly homeowner on your New Year's resolution list? Congrats! You have, quite clearly, chosen the best city. But unfortunately so have a lot of other savvy people, and those neighborhoods you saw profiled in The New York Times aren't exactly cheap these days. The good news is that right outside the established hotspots are up-and-comers for those in the know. We checked in with some local real estate agents to get a read on what's next.

You want: Fishtown
Consider: Kensington

As the host of two Stephen Starr joints and a veritable La Colombe palace, it's safe to say Fishtown is an established 'hood with the price tags to prove it. But if you stay nearby, you could get in on the ground floor of the next big thing. "The next Fishtown might be the neighborhood just outside the borders of the current Fishtown: Kensington," says Stephan Sitzai, a realtor with Coldwell Banker Preferred, Old City. "There's a lot of spillover already, and it's only going to increase in the years ahead. Many who want to live in the Fishtown of five years ago are looking beyond the horizon a bit. I've actually had buyers from New York asking me about Kensington recently."

You want: Point Breeze
Consider: Grays Ferry

With the University of Pennsylvania on one side and investor darling Point Breeze on the other, Grays Ferry is an attractive option for patient buyers with a budget. "It may take more time to see a strong return on investment — there's not a lot of commercial opportunities there, no cafes or smaller eateries, bars or shopping options right now. Still, the reward will be huge," says Gwen Perseghin, director of operations and partner at JG Real Estate. "Point Breeze has already been developed, and even shells are over $100,000 there now, so that overflow of demand is trickling west."

You want: Fairmount
Consider: Francisville or Brewerytown

Fairmount has come with a steep price tag for years. But right next door? Not so much — yet, anyway. "Francisville is just incredible right now," says Sean Kaplan, an agent with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Fox & Roach. "It feels like every other property is under construction, with some really exciting and attractive buildings going in. It reminds you of parts of Graduate Hospital 10 to 12 years ago. And it all makes perfect sense given its proximity to both Center City and North Broad Street."

Across Girard Avenue, Brewerytown is another Fairmount alternative. "The location is ideal being just west of Center City," say Realtors Katherine Cohen Jordan and Chad Jordan via email. "You can see the development starting to take hold both with investors and also with owner occupants. Restaurants and coffee shops are starting to open, you see more people out walking their dogs. It's definitely moving in a positive direction."

Crossing the bridge

If you've considered defecting to New Jersey but don't want to completely leave city life behind, make sure Collingswood is on your list.

"In New Jersey, Collingswood has been experiencing a great resurgence," the Jordans say. "It has an idyllic, family-friendly downtown, and is only minutes from Center City via PATCO or by car. Beautiful houses with nice yards and lots of parks. The Collingswood Farmers Market is a great place to hang out every Saturday May through Thanksgiving."

Home work: 2016 resolutions

It's the season for improvements. Here are three ways to start the new year off right.

MONICA WEYMOUTH
@MetroPhilly
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Want to give your room a fresh look fast? Try cheery pillows. ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

Get rid of the things you don't need or love to have a clutter-free home in 2016.

Every year, we declare our intention on January 1: We're going to be, in so many words, better. Whether that means a little change or a major overhaul, this is the designated time to do some life maintenance and make a few overdue upgrades. How does that look when applied to your home? Not all that much different. Here are three expert-recommended resolutions to apply to your abode in 2016.

1 Look great for less

An extreme makeover is tempting for the new year, yes — but it's also expensive. Before you whip out that holiday-heavy credit card and redo your living room, consider some cheaper alternatives, suggests Denise Sabia, the designer and blogger behind ThePaintedHome.com. "My home resolution is to update and freshen up my old sofa with new pillows and throws," she says. For more tips, catch her DIY workshops January 15-17 at the Philly Home and Garden Show (Phillyhomeandgarden.com).

2 Discover a new passion

A good resolution results in an improvement. A great resolution brings about a new habit. So while a shiny new kitchen is a worthy goal, it's messing up that kitchen that will really transform your home. "Rather than trying to make a resolution, per se, I focus on crafting and perfecting one thing each year," says Gwen Hefner of TheMakerista.com. "Last year, it was hospitality, and this year, it's food. We're gutting our kitchen in the new year, and I'm hoping the renovation will help me find a passion for cooking!"

3 Focus on what's important

Just like you only have so much time in a day, your basement only has so many square feet. Free yourself up and get rid of what's not important before another year piles on. "I already have a lot of goals in place for 2016, but my most attainable and tangible is to purge and organize my home," says designer and lifestyle blogger Marian Parsons of Missmustardseed.com. "I am yearning to simplify and get rid of the things we don't use, need or love, and organize the things we decide to keep."

It's all about creating good habits like keeping the kitchen clean.

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NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Panthers (15-1)

The Panthers recovered from their first loss of the season to take care of Tampa Bay. The undefeated season didn't happen, but this team still has a first-round bye, home-field advantage in the NFC, the best record in the NFL and the best record in team history.

No. 2

Cardinals (13-3)

That was a bad loss to Seattle, but the Cardinals had little to play for, and it showed. If they see Seattle again, it will be in the NFC title game and that bad taste to finish the season will have had three weeks to stew. For now, they await the highest seed remaining — Washington, Green Bay or Minny.

No. 3

Broncos (12-4)

Peyton Manning returned to the field to bring the Broncos their No. 1 playoff seeding. Now the Broncos have two weeks to decide if Peyton will lead them in the playoffs, as they wait to see how his foot reacts. The win over the Chargers brought some upbeat vibes back to Denver.

No. 4

Seahawks (10-6)

Russell Wilson has 24 touchdowns and one interception in his last seven games, and Doug Baldwin has the first 1,000-yard season of his career as Wilson's top target. The same old defense is intact and suddenly this is a team that is again getting Super Bowl buzz.

No. 5

Patriots (12-4)

Tom Brady lost the last two games of the regular season for the first time in his career. That makes the Pats 2-4 since starting 10-0, and you have to begin to wonder if they are just too injured to mount a credible title defense. Their first-round bye will help as Julian Edelman will make his return.

No. 6

Chiefs (11-5)

The NFL's hottest team just completed one of the most improbable turnarounds in NFL history. The Chiefs went from 1-5 to 11-5 on the back of 10 straight wins, and almost stole the division from Denver. They will now face the team most similar to them in the playoffs: Houston.

No. 7

Steelers (10-6)

After many thought Pittsburgh blew its season with an upset loss to the Ravens in Week 16, the Jets handed them back a playoff berth. Now the NFL's most dangerous offense is in the door and it will start off its run against Cincinnati, which may or may not have Andy Dalton.

No. 8

Bengals (12-4)

That first-round bye certainly would have come in handy. Andy Dalton's cast is off, but it seems A.J. McCarron is still the most likely to start the Wild Card matchup against the Steelers. The Bengals are 2-2 since Dalton's injury, but those wins have come against San Francisco and Baltimore.

No. 9

Vikings (11-5)

The Vikings got revenge for their earlier loss to Green Bay in the game that decided the division. In doing so, they earned themselves the tougher playoff matchup: Seattle. The last time these teams played, the Seahawks were kicking off their renaissance and blew out the Vikings, 38-7.

No. 10

Packers (10-6)

The Packers are 4-6 since starting the season 6-0 and they've struggled to look like the contender we're all used to. Surprisingly, it's the offense that most often can't get it done. They've struggled to run the ball and complete the deep ball. That said, Washington is the best matchup to draw.

No. 18

Eagles (7-9)

It's hard to believe the turnover of last offseason in Philly could be topped, but anything is possible now that Chip Kelly is gone. With Howie Roseman seemingly back in power to pick up the pieces, they'll have a lot of decisions to make, starting with Sam Bradford.

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76ers make vet Brand an offer he can't refuse

Elton Brand is a two-time All-Star, and is expected to suit up with the Sixers later this week. GETTY IMAGES

The Sixers welcomed back their former big man to help mentor the team's young players.

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After 16 NBA seasons with five teams, Elton Brand was done. He had no regrets. It was a wonderful career for the former No. 1 overall pick of the Chicago Bulls in the 1999 draft.

Retirement didn't last too long.

When the 76ers came calling for a second time, Brand happily accepted. He officially agreed to terms on Monday but didn't dress for their 109-99 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves. Why return to the grind of the NBA for a 4-33 team?

"We had contact. I still live here. My kids go to school in the area," Brand said. "I was offered assistant GM, TV gigs. I turned them all down. When it was something local, something with the Sixers, something dear to my heart, that's when I took it into consideration. I still didn't want to do anything. As a player, coming back, it just seemed more interesting to me. I knew I could effect change. I might not make it till the end, when it's really great around here, but I can be a part of something as a player."

The Sixers have sorely been lacking veteran leadership. Adding a player such as Brand is ideal, especially for this extremely young group.

Brand appeared in 1,041 career NBA games and made 867 starts in 16 previous seasons. He also earned the 2005-06 Joe Dumars Trophy, presented each season to the player who exemplifies the ideals of sportsmanship on the court.

18

BRAND PLAYED IN 18 PLAYOFF GAMES FOR THE 76ERS IN THE 2011 AND 2012 POSTSEASONS.

He can still produce on the court as well.

"I think I still got it," Brand said. "I think I can still be serviceable. I'm definitely not here for 35 minutes a game. I definitely can give something on the court."

And off the court.

"It'll probably be different on an individual basis," Brand said. "You let them see how hard you work, how seriously you take this. All the guys I know of are great guys and hard workers. Talking to coach [Brett] Brown, he's the most upbeat 3-and-whatever team [now 4-33] you could imagine. I'm here for all of them. It's about ball."

When the Sixers host the Atlanta Hawks on Thursday night, Brand may appear in his 1,042nd contest. It's a game he never believed would come to fruition when he retired.

"It was over," Brand said. "I was thankful for the great opportunity I had. I kind of moved on. I didn't train basketball to come back. I was doing yoga, riding my bike, taking the kids to school. I wasn't training for a comeback."

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Eagles players crave strong leadership

With the 2015 season in the rearview, Eagles players share their vision for next season and their new head coach.

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Chip Kelly was a unique head coach who brought with him a unique leadership style.

He ran the Eagles more or less like a college team, a style that many players — whether they admitted it or not — were not accustomed to.

With Kelly in the rearview mirror, the Birds search for a new head coach is already nearly a week old. But what do the players want?

"Someone who has a good work ethic," DeMarco Murray, who has a huge guaranteed contract that will see him back in Philly next season, said. "[We need someone] who is very disciplined. This is a young team, and turnovers and penalties hurt us. Someone who is very emotional and lays it out there for us."

Most players asked about the yet-to-be-determined incoming coach stressed strong leadership skills as being paramount for the job. They also made sure to say that it didn't necessarily mean Kelly did not possess those skills either.

"As a wide receiver, obviously, going into my third year, a year I know is important to me, you want to see us throw the ball," Jordan Matthews, who led all Eagles receivers with 997 yards in 2015, said. "The next coach who comes in will see the weapons we have in the backfield and will say 'we need to line up in the [I-formation] and run the ball too.'

"I just want to get back to football. I want to win, I know coach Kelly was committed to winning. … I want to get back to winning football and into the playoffs, being a team and wide receiver Philadelphia can be proud of."

The Eagles end their season and head to their respective homes knowing little about the future of their team. GETTY IMAGES

The Eagles have reportedly interviewed three candidates thus far, Doug Pederson, Duce Staley and Pat Shurmur, the Eagles' offensive coordinator who served as interim head coach in Sunday's 35-30 win against the Giants.

Will the Eagles promote from within? Sam Bradford thinks they might.

"I think [Shurmur can do it]. I think Pat, having been there before in Cleveland, I think that helped him," the quarterback said of Shurmur's stint as head coach of the Browns. "You want to play for a guy who is going to be there for you, who is going to lead you and inspire you, someone the guys in the locker room can really rally around. Fortunately it's not up to me to make that decision."

Whatever the decision is, and no matter what the leadership style that arrives in South Philly over the next few weeks (or months) is, one thing is certain: There will be changes.

"Whatever direction Mr. Lurie chooses to go, you have to recreate that chemistry every year," Shurmur said. "No team starts the same an ends the same. I think you can build on things like [the win Sunday]."

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Sean McDermott could be a perfect fit for Philadelphia. GETTY IMAGES

McDermott would love return to Eagles

It's been over a week now since the Eagles, as they have done for three seasons now, shocked the NFL by firing Chip Kelly.

Since then, the entire landscape of the NFL — with regards to its head coaching vacancies — has shifted mightily.

Sean McDermott has become a leading candidate for the job. The coordinator of the Panthers' defense — regularly one of the best in the league — has other things to worry about right now. Like leading his top-seeded Carolina squad to a Super Bowl. But many Eagles fans want the familiar face to return to Philly, the place where he coached local legends like Brian Dawkins as a positional coach (and later defensive coordinator) under Andy Reid.

The feeling is mutual.

"I love the Philadelphia area and quite honestly, it's been tough to watch the last several years, having grown up in the area and worked there for 12 years," McDermott said on 97.5 The Fanatic Tuesday. "The fan base, I know what's important to them. They're genuine, dedicated and they're real. And the facilities up there are second to none. So I'd love to see the Eagles recapture the magic, so to speak."

EVAN MACY

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Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

Notice of Public Auction Sale

Under the authority in Internal Revenue Code section 6331, the property described below has been seized for nonpayment of internal revenue taxes due from: Robert W. Lopez.

The property will be sold at public auction as provided by Internal Revenue Code section 6335 and related regulations.

Date of Sale: 01/27/2016

Time of Sale: 11:00 a.m. - Register to bid at 10:30 a.m.

Place of Sale: IRS Office - 600 Arch Street - Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Title Offered: Only the right, title, and interest of Robert W. Lopez; in and to the property will be offered for sale. If requested, the Internal Revenue Service will furnish information about possible encumbrances, which may be useful in determining the value of the interest being sold.

Description of property: One parcel Real Property - Commonly known as 6230 Lawndale Street - Philadelphia, PA 19111. BRT#:353275120.

Additional information from public records:

27'- 5" Wide by 67'- 6" Deep. SHARING A PARTY WALL ON ONE SIDE.

- Lot size: 1,857 sq. ft.
- 2 Story Multi-Family.
- Built in 1925
- Attached garage.

Property may be Inspected: Drive by only. Do not enter on the property.

Payment terms: Deferred payment as follows: 20% of your bid at time of sale; balance by February 24, 2016.

Form of Payment: All payments must be by cash, a certified, cashier's, or treasurer's check drawn on any bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of the United States or under the laws of any State, Territory, or possession of the United States, or by a United States postal, bank, or express money order. Make check or money order payable to the United States Treasury.

Dated: 12/04/2015 Signature/Name: Bob Digregorio PALS.

Address for information about the sale: **Go to www. irsauctions.gov website for details, minimum bid, encumbrances, and photos.**

Call Bob Digregorio Phone: (917) 647-5429.

Or mail to: I.R.S. – PALS 14TH FLOOR – 290 BROADWAY – NY NY 10007.

Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

Notice of Public Auction Sale

Under the authority in Internal Revenue Code section 6331, the property described below has been seized for nonpayment of internal revenue taxes due from: Walter Everett.

The property will be sold at public auction as provided by Internal Revenue Code section 6335 and related regulations.

Date of Sale: 01/27/2016

Time of Sale: 11:30 a.m. - Register to bid at 10:30 a.m.

Place of Sale: IRS Office - 600 Arch Street - Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Title Offered: Only the right, title, and interest of Walter Everett; in and to the property will be offered for sale. If requested, the Internal Revenue Service will furnish information about possible encumbrances, which may be useful in determining the value of the interest being sold.

Description of property: One parcel Real Property - Commonly known as 6157 West Columbia Street - Philadelphia, PA 19151. BRT# 342117600.

Additional information from public records, not verified as correct.

Number of stories: 3 Exterior condition: Average

Year property was built: 1925 (estimated)

Connection to sewer: Yes

Land area: 4,289.75 square feet. NOTE: 25' frontage on West Columbia street extends thru to 25' frontage on Lebanon Street.

Total dwelling livable area: 2,320 square feet.

Property may be Inspected: Drive by only. Do not enter on the property.

Payment terms: Deferred payment as follows: 20% of your bid at time of sale; balance by February 24, 2016.

Form of Payment: All payments must be by cash, a certified, cashier's, or treasurer's check drawn on any bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of the United States or under the laws of any State, Territory, or possession of the United States, or by a United States postal, bank, or express money order. Make check or money order payable to the United States Treasury.

Dated: 12/04/2015. Signature/**Name**: Bob Digregorio PALS.

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metro.us/games

Hexagon Word

Clues:

1. Peckish
2. Puzzle
3. Held gently
4. Brutal
5. Wrap around
6. The O of H20

Use the clues to fill in the spaces in the numbered hexagons. Each answer runs clockwise but can start anywhere in the shape. Where hexagons touch, they have the same letter. We've given you the first answer. The letters in the middle hexagon reveal a mystery keyword.

Mix 'n' Match

CHA	OST	TED
DEC	COC	ERS
DEV	TER	ING
ENS	EPT	NDS
IMP	IOU	NED
MAS	NAR	ORS
THO	IST	SLY
CON	USA	ION
MIN	STE	FUL

© Lovatts Puzzles

Clues:

1. Charlatans
2. Invented
3. Authoritative
4. Misleadingly
5. Entangling
6. Reverend
7. Hundreds, ..., millions
8. Subdued

Take a set of letters from each column and combine them to form a nine-letter answer to each clue. Once finished, the remaining sets of letters will spell out another nine-letter word. This is your answer

metro.us/crossword

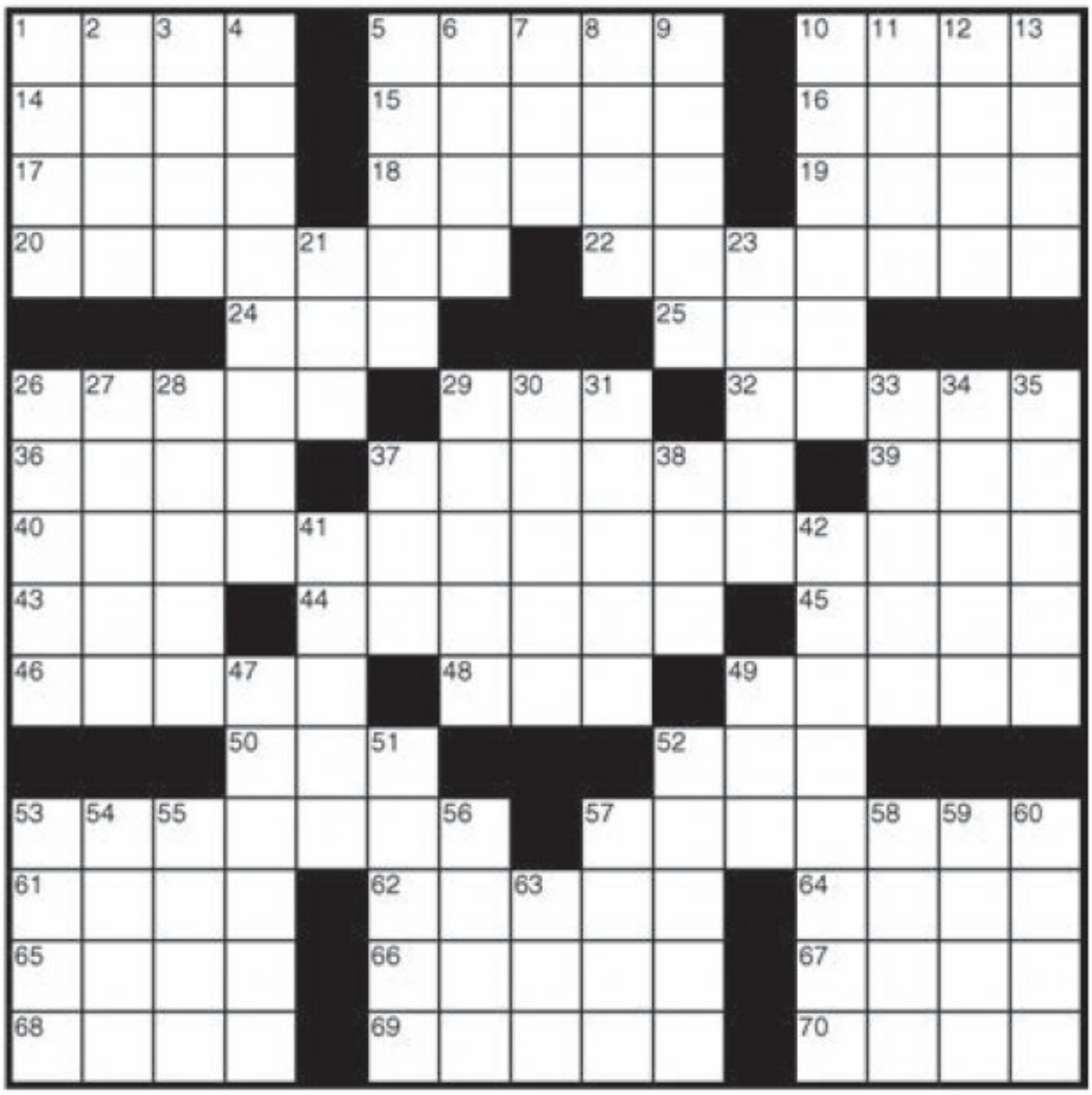
Across

1 Train for boxing
5 Halloween teeth
10 Benefit, often
14 Hearty companion
15 Kapitan's command (hyph.)
16 NYSE rival
17 — spumante
18 Columbus' port
19 District
20 Visible at night
22 Broad-minded
24 Brewery tank
25 Cause a blister
26 Basilica areas
29 Pub. prosecutors
32 Kim of "Vertigo"
36 Meadow murmurs
37 Walloped
39 Tavern
40 Crawl alternative (2 wds.)
43 Yale grad
44 Bayou dweller
45 Mexican pot
46 Hitachi rival
48 Type of whiskey
49 Cleared the dishes
50 Henri's island
52 — out (relax)
53 Tot's attire
57 Lucille Ball, e.g.
61 Cause to fall
62 Got back, as a championship
64 Pantyhose hue
65 Pave the way
66 On both feet
67 Lean-to
68 Gin-fizz flavor
69 Cubicle fillers
70 Prepare the salad

Down

1 Fraud
2 El —, Texas
3 Low voice
4 Change a portfolio
5 Tempus — (time flies)
6 Help a crook
7 Persona — grata
8 Liverpool poky
9 Series of steps
10 Elegant garden feature
11 Romance, to Pedro
12 Actress — Dunham
13 Eddie's cop character
21 Refrain syllables
23 Cake-pan type
26 Paris priests
27 Abdul or Prentiss
28 Tuxedo trim
29 Hold off on
30 Brass or bronze
31 Arrange hair
33 Strads
34 It may turn on you
35 Work, as clay
37 Icy remark?
38 WNW opposite
41 Quebec school
42 Bumpiest
47 Hurrah!
49 Futon or bunk
51 Blew it
52 Cracks in volcanos
53 66 and I-80
54 — hygiene
55 Japanese soup
56 Bone-dry
57 Jagger's genre
58 Nymph who pined away
59 Warmonger of myth
60 Clothing
63 Mr. Craven

FOR THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES, **metro.us/games**



games

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Look over your personal papers or take action if you have a medical concern. Negotiate a deal or contract if you want to make headway.

Taurus Keeping busy will help you avoid an argument. Get involved in something that will bring you greater knowledge or update your skills.

Gemini You'll be drawn to someone who isn't a good influence. Look for red flags before you make any binding promises.

Cancer Maintain a calm demeanor and back away from unpredictable situations. Put greater emphasis on your home and family.

Leo An opportunity will unfold if you attend an industry event. Love is in the stars, and including someone special in your plans is encouraged.

Virgo Participate in an activity or event that forces you to be energetic and pay attention. Don't let emotional matters overwhelm you.

Libra Plan a trip or make arrangements to do something with a loved one, close friend or the youngsters in your life.

Scorpio Don't trust someone promising the impossible. You are best off taking a pass and avoiding regret. Stick to your own devices.

Sagittarius You'll have trouble controlling the situations unfolding around you. Stand still until the dust settles and you can assess the damage.

Capricorn Don't make any cash donations. Someone is likely to play on your emotions and give you false information.

Aquarius Check out a business opportunity or take part in an event that will help boost your reputation and set you up for future advancement.

Pisces Don't do or say something you'll regret. Stick to a plan and use your energy wisely. Be productive instead of wasting time. EUGENIA LAST

metro.us/sudoku

easy

					1	9		8
7	1	9				2		
				7		6		
3	5				9	8		
1	4			3			2	9
		6	5				4	1
		7		2				
		1				7	9	5
5		3	7					

hard

		6	3	9				
					4	3	1	
			6				5	9
	5				3	4		
	4	1	2		8	5	9	
		2	4				3	
6	7				1			
	2	8	7					
				8	2	6		

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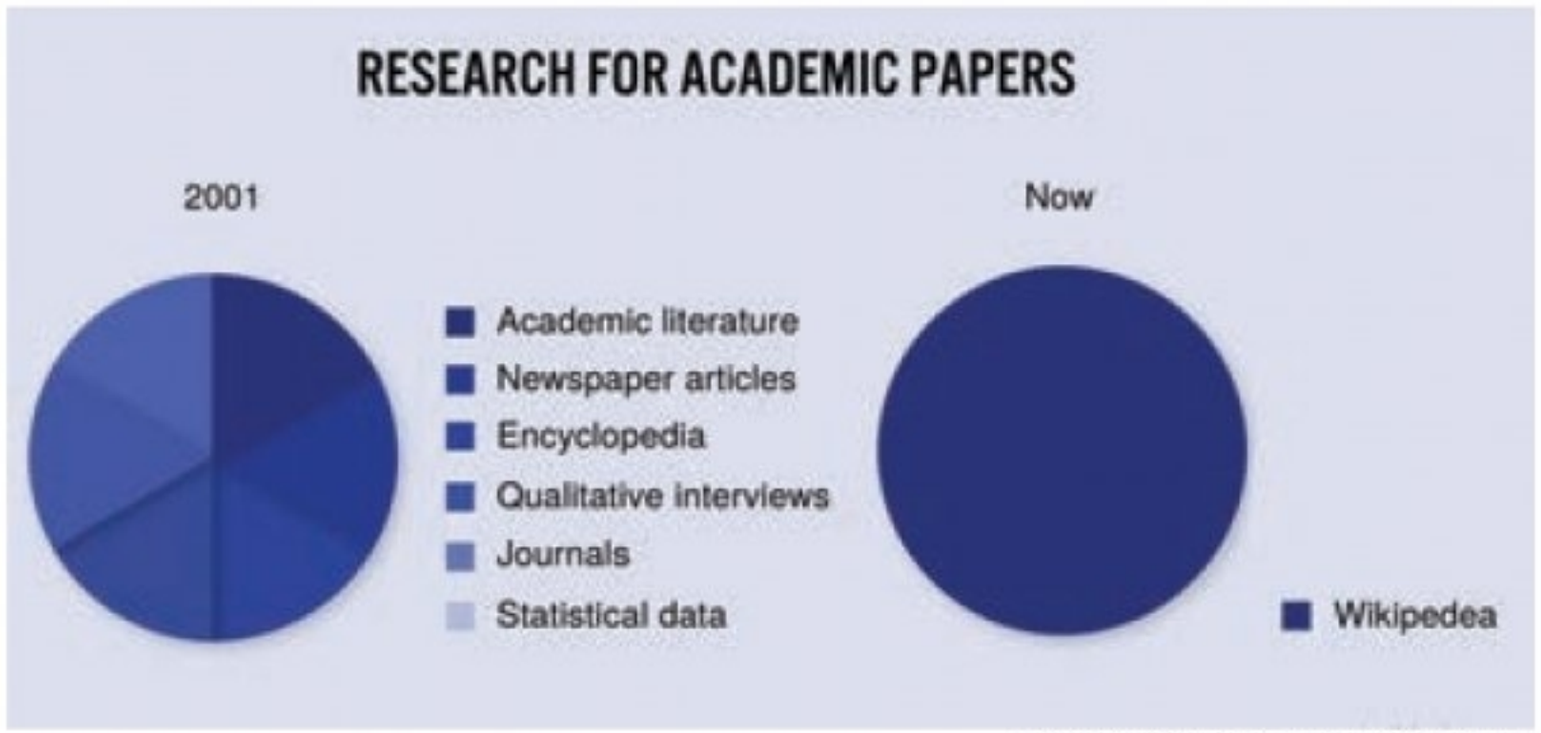

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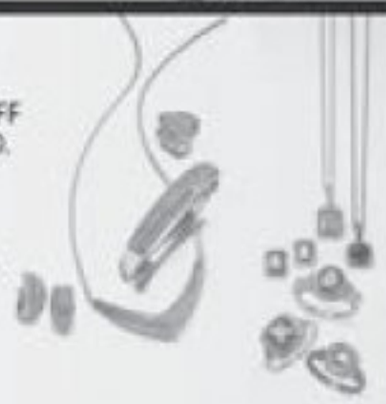

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